

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1119

To reauthorize and improve the Marine Debris Research, Prevention, and Reduction Act, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 26, 2011

Mr. INOUE (for himself, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. BEGICH, Ms. SNOWE, and Ms. MURKOWSKI) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To reauthorize and improve the Marine Debris Research, Prevention, and Reduction Act, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Trash Free Seas Act
5 of 2011”.

6 **SEC. 2. MODIFICATION OF PURPOSES OF MARINE DEBRIS**
7 **RESEARCH, PREVENTION, AND REDUCTION**
8 **ACT.**

9 Section 2 of the Marine Debris Research, Prevention,
10 and Reduction Act (33 U.S.C. 1951) is amended—

1 (1) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the
2 following:

3 “(1) to address the adverse impacts of marine
4 debris on the marine environment, navigation safety,
5 and the United States economy through research,
6 source identification, assessment, reduction, removal,
7 and prevention;”; and

8 (2) in paragraph (3), by inserting “and main-
9 tain” after “to develop”.

10 **SEC. 3. REVISION OF NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOS-**
11 **PHERIC ADMINISTRATION MARINE DEBRIS**
12 **PROGRAM.**

13 (a) RENAMING OF PROGRAM.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 3
15 of the Marine Debris Research, Prevention, and Re-
16 duction Act (33 U.S.C. 1952) is amended by strik-
17 ing “Marine Debris Prevention and Removal Pro-
18 gram” and inserting “Marine Debris Program”.

19 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—Such section is
20 amended in the heading by striking “**PREVENTION**
21 **AND REMOVAL**”.

22 (3) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Paragraph (7)
23 of section 7 of such Act (33 U.S.C. 1956) is amend-
24 ed by striking “Marine Debris Prevention and Re-

1 moval Program” and inserting “Marine Debris Pro-
2 gram”.

3 (b) EXPANSION OF PROGRAM PURPOSES.—Sub-
4 section (a) of section 3 of such Act (33 U.S.C. 1952), as
5 amended by subsection (a)(1), is further amended—

6 (1) by striking “reduce and prevent” and in-
7 serting “research, assess, reduce, and prevent”; and

8 (2) by striking “and navigation safety.” and in-
9 serting “, navigation safety, and the United States
10 economy.”.

11 (c) REVISION OF PROGRAM COMPONENTS.—Sub-
12 section (b) of such section is amended by striking para-
13 graphs (1) through (3) and inserting the following:

14 “(1) RESEARCH AND ASSESSMENT.—The Ad-
15 ministrator shall, in consultation with relevant Fed-
16 eral agencies, undertake marine debris research and
17 assessment, reduction and prevention efforts, with a
18 focus on marine debris posing a threat to living ma-
19 rine resources, the marine environment, navigation
20 safety, or the United States economy including the
21 following:

22 “(A) Research and assessment of derelict
23 fishing gear.

1 “(B) Research and assessment of plastics,
2 with respect to the health of the marine envi-
3 ronment.

4 “(C) The establishment of a process for
5 maintaining an inventory of marine debris types
6 and their impacts found in the navigable waters
7 of the United States and the United States ex-
8 clusive economic zone, including impacts on liv-
9 ing marine resources, the marine environment,
10 navigation safety, and the United States econ-
11 omy.

12 “(D) Measures to identify the origin, loca-
13 tion, and projected movement of marine debris
14 within United States navigable waters, the
15 United States exclusive economic zone, and the
16 high seas, including the use of oceanographic,
17 atmospheric, satellite, and remote sensing data.

18 “(2) PREVENT, REDUCE, AND REMOVE OCCUR-
19 RENCE AND IMPACTS.—The Administrator shall un-
20 dertake efforts to prevent, reduce, and remove the
21 occurrence and impacts of marine debris, including
22 the adverse impacts of derelict fishing gear, includ-
23 ing by—

24 “(A) working with other Federal agencies
25 to address land-based sources of marine debris;

1 “(B) conducting research and development
2 of alternatives to gear posing threats to the ma-
3 rine environment, and methods for marking
4 gear used in specific fisheries to enhance the
5 tracking, recovery, and identification of lost and
6 discarded gear;

7 “(C) developing effective nonregulatory
8 measures and incentives to cooperatively reduce
9 the volume of lost and discarded fishing gear
10 and to aid in its recovery;

11 “(D) developing and implementing strate-
12 gies, methods, priorities, and a plan for track-
13 ing, preventing and removing marine debris
14 that is in, or likely to enter, United States navi-
15 gable waters or the United States exclusive eco-
16 nomic zone, including the development of local
17 or regional protocols for removal of derelict
18 fishing gear and other marine debris;

19 “(E) providing national and regional co-
20 ordination to assist States, Indian tribes, and
21 regional organizations in addressing local ma-
22 rine debris issues;

23 “(F) promoting international action to re-
24 duce the incidence of marine debris; and

1 “(G) developing and disseminating tools
2 and products related to the activities described
3 in subparagraphs (A) through (E).

4 “(3) OUTREACH AND EDUCATION.—

5 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator
6 shall undertake outreach and education of the
7 public and other stakeholders, such as the fish-
8 ing industry, fishing gear manufacturers, other
9 marine-dependent industries, and the plastic
10 and waste management industries, on sources
11 of marine debris, threats associated with marine
12 debris, and approaches to identify, determine
13 sources of, assess, reduce, remove, and prevent
14 marine debris and its adverse impacts on the
15 marine environment, navigation safety, and the
16 United States economy, including outreach and
17 education activities through public-private ini-
18 tiatives.

19 “(B) COORDINATION.—The Administrator
20 shall coordinate outreach and education activi-
21 ties under this paragraph with any outreach
22 programs conducted under section 2204 of the
23 Marine Plastic Pollution Research and Control
24 Act of 1987 (33 U.S.C. 1915).”.

1 (d) MODIFICATION OF REQUIREMENT TO PRESCRIBE
 2 CRITERIA AND GUIDELINES FOR GRANT PROGRAM.—
 3 Paragraph (5) of subsection (c) of such section is amended
 4 to read as follows:

5 “(5) GRANT CRITERIA AND GUIDELINES.—Ap-
 6 plicants for and recipients of grants awarded under
 7 this subsection shall comply with such criteria and
 8 guidelines as the Administrator shall prescribe to
 9 carry out the provisions of this subsection.”.

10 **SEC. 4. EXPANSION OF FEDERAL INFORMATION CLEARING-**
 11 **HOUSE.**

12 Section 6 of the Marine Debris Research, Prevention,
 13 and Reduction Act (33 U.S.C. 1955) is amended—

14 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “and moni-
 15 toring efforts” and inserting “monitoring efforts,
 16 and best practices”; and

17 (2) in paragraph (2), by inserting “or other for-
 18 profit industries” after “the fishing industry”.

19 **SEC. 5. DEFINITION OF MARINE DEBRIS.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7 of the Marine Debris
 21 Research, Prevention, and Reduction Act (33 U.S.C.
 22 1956), as amended by section 3(a)(3), is further amended
 23 by adding at the end the following:

24 “(9) MARINE DEBRIS.—The term ‘marine de-
 25 bris’ means any persistent solid material that is

1 manufactured or processed and directly or indirectly,
 2 intentionally or unintentionally, disposed of or aban-
 3 doned into the marine environment or the Great
 4 Lakes.”.

5 (b) CONFORMING AND TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—
 6 Section 5 of such Act (33 U.S.C. 1954) is amended to
 7 read as follows:

8 **“SEC. 5. BIENNIAL PROGRESS REPORTS OF THE INTER-**
 9 **AGENCY MARINE DEBRIS COORDINATING**
 10 **COMMITTEE.**

11 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not less frequently than once
 12 every 2 years, the Interagency Marine Debris Coordi-
 13 nating Committee established pursuant to section 2203(a)
 14 of the Marine Plastic Pollution Research and Control Act
 15 of 1987 (33 U.S.C. 1914(a)) (in this section referred to
 16 as the ‘Interagency Committee’) shall, acting through the
 17 chairperson of the Interagency Committee, submit to the
 18 Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of
 19 the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and In-
 20 frastructure and the Committee on Natural Resources of
 21 the House of Representatives a report that evaluates
 22 United States and international progress in meeting the
 23 purposes of this Act.

24 “(b) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted pursuant to
 25 subsection (a) shall include the following:

1 “(1) The status of implementation of any rec-
2 ommendations and strategies of the Interagency
3 Committee and analysis of their effectiveness.

4 “(2) A summary of the marine debris inventory
5 to be maintained by the National Oceanic and At-
6 mospheric Administration.

7 “(3) A review of the Marine Debris Program
8 established by section 3, including projects funded
9 and accomplishments relating to reduction and pre-
10 vention of marine debris.

11 “(4) A review of Coast Guard programs and ac-
12 complishments relating to marine debris removal, in-
13 cluding enforcement and compliance with MARPOL
14 requirements.

15 “(5) Estimated Federal and non-Federal fund-
16 ing provided for marine debris and recommendations
17 for priority funding needs.”.

18 **SEC. 6. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-**
19 **TIONS.**

20 Section 9 of the Marine Debris Research, Prevention,
21 and Reduction Act (33 U.S.C. 1958) is amended, in the
22 matter before paragraph (1), by striking “through 2010—
23 ” and inserting “through 2015—”.

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